CLAIMS

1. An expiration date monitoring system, comprising:

a terminal; and a server for monitoring an expiration date of the terminal, wherein the server monitors the expiration date for at least one function of the terminal and the terminal periodically receives a renewal command for the expiration date corresponding to said at least one function, whereby the terminal activates only a function for which the corresponding expiration date has not expired.

2. An expiration date monitoring system, comprising:

a terminal; and a server for monitoring an expiration date of this terminal, wherein the terminal periodically accesses the server through a communication circuit, obtains from the server a renewal command of the expiration date from the server and stores the renewed expiration date, whereby the terminal activates only a function for which the corresponding expiration date has not expired.

3. An expiration date monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein termination time after a regular period is designated by the renewal command of the expiration date.

4. An expiration date monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein said renewal command includes a number of times that at least one of said function can be accessed.

5. An expiration date monitoring system according to claim 2, wherein the terminal obtains the control information from the server through the communication

circuit in the access.

6. An expiration date monitoring system according to claim 5, wherein the server is provided with a queue for storing the control information and the server transmits to the terminal the control information which is stored in the queue, when the obtaining request of the control information is issued from the terminal.

7. An expiration date monitoring system according to claim 2, wherein the terminal transmits to the server the information which is recorded in the terminal through the communication circuit in the access.

8. A terminal which is used for the expiration date monitoring system according to claim 2, comprising:

an expiration date renewal control means for controlling a periodical renewal of the expiration date;

an expiration date renewal communication means for receiving an instruction of the expiration date renewal control means, accessing the server through the communication circuit and obtaining a renewal command of the expiration date;

an expiration date checking means for checking the expiration date of each function of the terminal;

a function activation means for activating each function of the terminal after obtaining the expiration date has been checked; and

a security module for storing an expiration date for each function of the terminal, which is renewed on the

basis of a renewal command of the expiration date which is obtained from the server, wherein the expiration date checking means passes the function which is designated by the function activation means to the security module when the function activation means designates a function and requires to check the expiration date, and then it requires to determine the suitability of the expiration date of the security module and when this determination indicates that the expiration date thereof is not elapsed, it gives the checking result of the expiration date to the function activation means.

9. A terminal according to claim 8, comprising a date information obtaining means for obtaining a current time, wherein the expiration date checking means passes the current time which is obtained from the date information obtaining means and the function which is designated by the function activation means to the security module when the function activation means designates a function and requires to check the expiration date, and determine if the expiration date has passed.

10. A terminal according to claim 9, wherein the date information obtaining means obtains the current time from the time information that is included in the digital broadcast information.

11. A terminal according to claim 8, comprising a control information obtaining means for obtaining the control information from the server, wherein the control

information obtaining means receives the instruction from the expiration date renewal control means and obtains the control information from the server through the communication circuit.

12. A terminal according to claim 8, comprising a log information transmitting means for transmitting the log information to the server, wherein the log information transmitting means receives the instruction from the expiration date renewal control means and transmits the log information to the server through the communication circuit.

13. A server which is used for the expiration date monitoring system according to claim 2 comprising:

a contractant information data base for recording the information of an expiration data per function of each terminal; and

an expiration date renewal command transmitting means for checking that the terminal satisfies a condition of the usage when the terminal issues a renewal command obtaining request of the expiration date through a communication circuit, and generates a renewal command of the expiration date to transmit it.

14. A server according to claim 13, comprising a control information transmitting means for transmitting the control information when an obtaining request of the control information is issued from the terminal through the communication circuit.

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15. A server according to claim 14 comprising a queue for storing the control information, wherein the control information transmitting means transmits the control information which is stored in the queue, when the obtaining request of the control information is issued from the terminal.

16. A server according to claim 13, comprising a log receiving means for receiving the log information which is transmitted from the terminal through the communication circuit.

17. An expiration date monitoring system, comprising:

a terminal; and a server for monitoring an expiration date of this terminal, wherein the server monitors the expiration date of the terminal and the terminal receives a renewal command of the expiration date from the server to store the renewed expiration date, so that the terminal decides the suitability of the activation on the basis of the expiration date.

18. An expiration date monitoring system, comprising:

a terminal; and a server for monitoring an expiration date of this terminal, wherein the server monitors the expiration date for each function of the terminal and the terminal receives a renewal command of the expiration date for at least one function from the server to store the renewed expiration date of said at least one function, so that the terminal decides the suitability of the activation of the function on the basis of the expiration date.

19. An expiration date monitoring system, comprising:

a terminal for storing a content; and a server for monitoring an expiration date of this terminal, wherein the server monitors the expiration date for each content which is stored by the terminal, and the terminal receives a renewal command of the expiration date for each content from the server to store the renewed expiration date of each content, so that the terminal decides the suitability of the access to the content on the basis of the expiration date.

20. An expiration date monitoring system, comprising:

a terminal for storing the access information for accessing a content; and a server for monitoring an expiration date of this terminal, wherein the server monitors the expiration date for each access information which is stored by the terminal, and the terminal receives a renewal command of the expiration date for each access information from the server to store the renewed expiration date of each access information, so that the terminal decides the suitability of the access to the content which is capable of being accessed by the access information on the basis of the expiration date.

21. An expiration date monitoring system according to claim 17, wherein the terminal periodically obtains a renewal command of an expiration date.

22. An expiration date monitoring system according to claim 17, wherein a termination time after a regular period

is designated by the renewal command of the expiration date.

23. An expiration date monitoring system according to claim 17, wherein a number of times said terminal can be accessed is designated by the renewal command of the expiration date.

24. An expiration date monitoring system according to claim 17, wherein the terminal further obtains the control information from the server during access of the terminal.

25. An expiration date monitoring system according to claim 24, wherein the server is provided with a queue for storing the control information and the server transmits to the terminal the control information which is stored in the queue, when the obtaining request of the control information is issued from the terminal.

26. An expiration date monitoring system according to claim 17, wherein the terminal transmits to the server the information which is recorded in the terminal during access of the terminal.

27. A terminal which is used for the expiration date monitoring system according to claim 17.

28. A terminal according to claim 27, further comprising a log information transmitting means for transmitting the log information to the server.

29. A server which is used for the expiration date monitoring system according to claim 17.

30. A server according to claim 29 further comprising

a log receiving means for receiving log information which is transmitted from the terminal.

31. An expiration date monitoring system, wherein the expiration date monitoring system determines whether a content or an application which is received by a terminal. through the broadcast or a communication is within an expiration date on the basis of a renewal command of the expiration date and the expiration date monitoring system is capable of using the determination as a parameter for executing the content or the application.

32. A terminal which accesses a server and is controlled by the server, comprising a control information obtaining means for obtaining the control information from the server, wherein the control information obtaining means obtains the control information from the server at a predetermined time.

33. A server comprising a control information obtaining means for instructing a terminal to obtain the control information when the terminal accesses the server.

34. A terminal according to claim 32, wherein the control information obtaining means receives the instruction from the control information obtaining means to obtain the control information from the server.

35. A terminal according to claim 32, wherein the terminal accesses a server through a telephone line and the control information obtaining means obtains the control information from the server in the case where the telephone

line is being connected to the server.

36. A terminal according to claim 32, wherein the terminal accesses a server through a telephone line and the control information obtaining means obtains the control information from the server in the case where the telephone line is being connected to the server and the telephone line has been in no communication condition for not less than a predetermined time.

37. A server according to claim 33, comprising a queue for storing the control information and a control information transmitting means, wherein the control information transmitting means instructs a terminal to obtain the control information, which is stored in the queue, when the terminal accesses the server.

38. A terminal for accessing a server, comprising a log information transmitting means for transmitting the log information to the server, wherein the log information transmitting means transmits the log information to the server at a predetermined time.

39. A server comprising a log information transmission instructing means for instructing a terminal to transmit the log information to the server when the terminal accesses the server.

40. A terminal according to claim 38, wherein the log information transmitting means receives the instruction from the log information transmission instructing means to transmit the log information to the server.

41. A terminal according to claim 38, wherein the terminal accesses a server through a telephone line and the log information transmitting means transmits the log information to the server when the telephone line is connected to the server.

42. A terminal according to claim 38, wherein the terminal accesses a server through a telephone line and the log information transmitting means transmits the log information to the server when the telephone line is connected to the server and the telephone has been in no communication condition for not less than a predetermined time.